

For immediate release

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Green Columbus Fund Used to Demolish Former Vacant and Abandoned Gas Station

A former vacant and abandoned gas station located at 675 E. Hudson Street was demolished today to make way for a new retail store. The demolition was made possible through the use of Columbus Green Fund dollars. The City of Columbus is providing \$68,300 to the Hutton Company for acquisition, environmental site assessment, gas tank system removal, and demolition of the existing gas station and pump island canopy.

"The Green Columbus Fund has proved to be a successful program incentivizing redevelopment in our urban core," Mayor Coleman said. "I want to thank the Hutton Company for making an investment in our city which will be easily paid back through benefits to our economy, environment and overall quality of life."

The \$1 million Green Columbus Fund provides grants to reimburse applicants with contaminated brownfield sites for environmental assessments and related costs and for a portion of site acquisition costs. Another component of the fund reimburses certification fees for a building which achieves LEED status from the United States Green Building Council, the nationally accepted benchmark for evaluating sustainable buildings.

Since the program was announced last fall, eight companies have been awarded grants from the Green Columbus Fund, including the Hutton Company. \$559,270 in grants have been authorized to date.

"The Green Columbus Fund is set up precisely for projects like this, to help companies turn brown fields into productive pieces of properties that add value to our neighborhoods," said Councilmember Klein. "Family Dollar is a family owned business that already a number of stores in Columbus. I would like to thank the Hutton Company for their investment in Columbus."

Funds for the Brownfield component of the program are capped at \$200,000 per project. Under the LEED certification component a qualified applicant can get their certification fee reimbursed, and may be eligible for additional incentives up to triple that fee. Funds are offered on an open application cycle for eligible applicants.

The City of Columbus Green Columbus Fund program includes four LEED rating systems under which it will accept applications. Originally accepting only LEED-NC for new construction and major renovations, the program now accepts LEED-NC, CS (core and shell), CI (commercial Interior), EB:O&M (existing buildings: operations and maintenance).